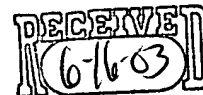


Official**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Serial No.09/361,372
Filing Date7/26/99
Inventor.....Soderberg et al.
Applicant.....Microsoft Corporation
Examiner.....Matthew J. Ludwig
Art Unit.....2178
Attorney's Docket No.MS1-391US
Title: Methods and Apparatus for Parsing Extensible Markup Language (XML)
Data Streams

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 9, 2003**RECEIVED**

AUG 13 2003

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

From: Lance R. Sadler (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)
Lee & Hayes, PLLC
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In the Claims

Claims 1-33 are pending and are listed below:

1. (Original) A method of parsing an Extensible Markup Language (XML) data stream comprising:

defining a plurality of states, individual states being associated with individual elements of an XML data stream;

associating one or more rules with each state;

receiving an XML data stream;

evaluating the XML data stream against one or more of the rules for individual elements contained in the XML data stream; and

disregarding associated portions of the XML data stream if any of the rules that are associated with those portions are violated.